

CONGRATULATING VICTORIA
CLARK ON HER ACHIEVEMENTS
IN SCIENCE

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Victoria Clark, a Ware County High School freshman, for receiving top honors in the state of Georgia in the field of science. She has become a finalist in the Discovery Young Scientist Challenge and is competing with 40 students nationwide for a college scholarship.

Miss Clark was recognized as a state winner because of the outstanding science project she entered in the state competition. The project she has been working on focuses on a way to detect early signs of age-related macular degeneration, which is incurable and hereditary. This disorder is the leading cause of blindness. Her research has explored the prospective of using a color hue test to discover the disease early on.

Miss Clark was an eighth grade student when her project was chosen to compete at the state level. She won first place at the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair in April. She was chosen for the national competition from among 1,600 other middle school students in 23 states who entered the competition.

Victoria Clark is a wonderful student and has been recognized many times before for her scholastic aptitude, especially in science. She is also a well-rounded young person and a contributing citizen of Waycross, Georgia. She is working for the betterment of her community, and with this project, she is contributing not only to her own success, but to finding a cure which threatens people the world over.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate and honor Victoria Clark. She is a bright young person who is helping people by improving the detection of this life altering disease. Her research is amazing and has been recognized as such by teachers and scientists alike. For one so young, too, her accomplishments are exceptional. She serves as an example to all of us of what young people can do for others if given the opportunity.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT R.
MCMILLAN AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS
TO RELATIONS WITH PANAMA

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the high priority that should be placed on improving our relationship with Panama. Beyond the interest in the Panama Canal, where the traffic destined to or from the United States amounts to some 65% of total Canal tonnage, U.S. investment in Panama ranks third in Latin America. Panama has many investment opportunities and is fast becoming a strong tourist destination. Large numbers of Panamanians are fluent in English, and the

U.S. dollar is the official currency of the nation making Panama attractive to private investments. It is extremely important, in the interests of both the United States and Panama, to keep strong personal and economic ties between the countries.

One Long Islander is trying to make a difference in those relations. Robert R. McMillan has just been elected Chairman of the United States-Panama Business Council—an organization devoted to the continuance of close relations between our two nations. I want to congratulate him on his election and wish him the best in his new endeavors.

H.R. 5430: THE CONSUMER ONLINE
PROTECTION ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, American consumers are flocking to the Internet in unprecedented numbers seeking to transact business and tap the nearly limitless informational databases. The explosion in Internet usage, however, is not without problems. Unlike shopping in a mall or browsing through a library where individuals travel anonymously through the merchandise racks and library stacks, the Internet is increasing becoming less and less anonymous. Direct marketing firms are now trying to identify individuals as they surf the web to isolate where they visit and what they are viewing.

While just knowing where individuals are traveling to on the Internet has some value it is the next step in data collection that is most disconcerting. Companies are now attempting to complete the step by attaching your personal information to your web site visits. It is this type of activity that has truly frightening implications because it lifts the veil of anonymity that consumers enjoy in the traditional bricks-and-mortar marketplace. Powerful computer programs have been developed that can compile personal information at a level and completeness usually associated with the knowledge of an immediate family member.

For that reason, I have introduced H.R. 5430, the Consumer Online Protection Act of 2000. H.R. 5430 seeks to return some of the anonymity back to consumers while they are online by prohibiting the correlation of personal information to web visits. In addition, the legislation requires the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to promulgate rules specifying that all operators of a Web site or online service provide clear and conspicuous notice of their privacy policy in clear non-legalistic terms. H.R. 5430 also requires a Web site or online service to provide consumers with an opt-out to prevent the use of their personal information for any activity other than transactional. Finally, the privacy policy must clearly state how any collected information will be shared or transferred to an external company or third party.

Taken in combination, these requirements will provide consumers with the knowledge and control they need to prevent the dissemination of personal information provided to an online entity. What I am seeking to prohibit is a third party creating a complete profile of individuals and families to sell or share without

prior affirmative consent. While I understand that there are many differing approaches to the issue of Internet privacy, I believe this legislation addresses a critical component and I look forward to moving this legislation in the 107th Congress.

THE DEATH IN CUSTODY
REPORTING ACT OF 2000

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the work of this Congress in passing H.R. 1800, the "Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2000." This bipartisan legislation was passed unanimously by both the House and the Senate and will bring much-needed accountability to the operation of our nation's prisons and jails. Passage of this legislation brings to an end a seven year effort to increase public trust in our criminal justice system.

Each year, an estimated 1,000 men and women die questionable deaths while in police custody or in jail. Many of these deaths are listed as suicides, but such conclusions are often tainted by inadequate recordkeeping, investigative incompetence, and contradictory physical evidence. In addition, many of these individuals have been arrested for relatively minor offenses—reducing the likelihood that they would take their own lives.

Suspicious deaths occur throughout the country and require our immediate attention. One teenage boy who was found dead by hanging in an Arkansas jail had been arrested for failing to pay a fine for underage drinking. Another individual in an Arkansas jail was found suffocated by toilet paper that had been stuffed down his throat. According to press reports, no records existed as to why he was in custody.

In any other atmosphere, unnatural deaths under questionable circumstances would not only be reported, but would raise serious concerns. State and local jails and lockups should be no different. This legislation will provide openness in government and will bolster public confidence and trust in our judicial system. In addition, it will serve as a deterrent to future misconduct as wrong-doers will know that their actions will be monitored.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to acknowledge the work of Mr. Mike Masterson, a veteran reporter and editor, who began investigating suspicious prison deaths some 5 years ago as the investigative projects editor at the Asbury Park Press. His comprehensive review of these cases, which was published by the Asbury Park Press in February 1995, led to increased public awareness of this issue and prompted my support for the idea of collecting better data on these deaths. While Mr. Masterson served only briefly at the Asbury Park Press, he continued writing about this issue during his tenure as editor of the Northwest Arkansas Times in Fayetteville, Arkansas. I am grateful indeed for Mr. Masterson's long-time support and dedication to this issue.

Finally, I want to thank my colleagues, Representative BOBBY SCOTT and Senator TIM HUTCHINSON for their support. These gentlemen began this debate many years ago and